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Our Case No. 8285/430

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:	)	
Gruchala et al.	)	
Serial No.:	)	Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Not Yet Assigned	)	
Filed:	)	Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
April 25, 2001	)	
For:	)	
Method and System for Providing	)	
a Work-At-Home	)	
Telecommunication Service	)	

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment prior to examination.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

*A1* (1) On page 1, before the first sentence, please add "This application is a continuation of application number 08/723,853, filed September 30, 1996 (pending), which is hereby incorporated by reference."

(2) Please replace the paragraph on page 4, lines 26-31 with the following paragraph.  
Tab A attached to this Preliminary Amendment contains a marked-up version of this paragraph showing all changes relative to the previous version of this paragraph.

*A2* A service switching point (SSP) 12 serves a plurality of telephone lines 14, including a telephone line 16, a telephone line 18, and a telephone line 20. Another service switching point (SSP) 22 serves a plurality of telephone lines 24, including a telephone line 26, a telephone line 28, and a telephone line 29. The SSPs 12 and 22 can be included within respective central